THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (e) The present policy does not permit Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retial trade except Single Brand retial where FDI up to 51%, with prior Government approval is allowed. The policy on FDI is reviewed on a continuing basis through an inter-ministerial consultation process and wider discussions. keeping in view the interests of all stakeholders.

Scrapping of SEZs in Goa

887. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Goa has recommended the scrapping of some Special Economic Zones;

(b) details of the request of Government of Goa in this regard;

(c) what were the reasons advanced by Government of Goa to scrap or withdraw SEZ status to some areas;

(d) whether it is also a fact that request have come from different places to derecognize SEZs; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the utility of all SEZs sanctioned in the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A communication has been received from the Government of Goa withdrawing the recommendations granted by them for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Goa, including the three notified SEZs.

(c) The reasons mentioned by Government of Goa are that SEZs would put undue strain on the resources of State without commensurate benefits and will also lead to large scale migration of people.

(d) Only one request has come for de-notification of SEZ.

(e) As the newly established SEZs are just getting established/operational, it is too early to make any assessment on their viability which is constantly being evaluated by the Developer of SEZs and entrepreneurs in the manufacturing/service units who are investing their money.

Production of organic tea

888. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken new project to produce organic tea in the country;